



WingTips

The Official Newsletter of Minnesota Wing, CAP US Air Force Auxiliary
April 2003 Edition

Rep. Kline joins Civil Air Patrol

Minneapolis, MN — Congressman John Kline representing the Second District was inducted into the CAP's Congressional Squadron on Friday April 18th. The presentation was held at the Gen. Rawlings Chapter, Air Force Association Senior Executive Luncheon on April 18th.

The Minnesota Wing Commandner, Col Dale Houim presented Congressman Kline with his membership certificate and the honorary grade of Lieutenant Colonel.

Members of the Valley Cadet Squadron presented Congressman Klein with a CAP Flight Suit, Valley Squadron Patch and a patch/cap Cap from the Red Wing Squadron's Black-CAP ES College.

Pictures from the event can be seen on the Wing Website at www.mnwg.cap.gov/pa/specials/congsqdn.htm



Congressman John Kline receives a Flight Suit from Cadet Kendra Sand of Valley Squadron. Photo: Col Kevin Sliwinski

Wing Pilots Complete National Check Pilot Course

South St. Paul, MN - Minnesota Wing conducted a National Check Pilot Course from 25-27 April at Fleming Field, South St. Paul MN.

Thirty-seven members attended. All of the flying was conducted on Friday and Saturday. High winds prevented operations on Sunday. SM. Frank Gutierrez from Iowa and Capt. Paul Gundarson from Nevada also attended the course.

The Check Pilots in the photo attached from left to right are: Lt Col. Roger Brogren, Capt. Gina Palazzari-Chavez, Lt Col. Rich Vosika, Capt. Jo Ellen Peters, SM. Frank Gutierrez, IA, Lt Col. Jim Schlick, Lt Col. Tom Woods, Capt. Rich Dalquist, Maj. Duane Delegard, Capt. Jason Urban, Capt. Bob Kistner, Lt Col. Jim Johnson, Lt Col. Dan Schaller, Capt. Jim Harris, Capt. Gary Lemasters, Lt Col. Keith Bischoff, Capt. Al Wollum, Lt Col. Hal Fechtelkotter, and Capt. Jerry Wolfgram.



Graduates of the 2003 National Check Pilot Course

Commander's Column

Col Dale Houim
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Civil Air Patrol is no longer the best kept secret in America. In the January 2003 issue of the VFW magazine there was a two page article entitled "Flying Minutemen Stand Ready to Defend Homeland". The sub headline reads; "Best known for search and rescue, the Civil Air Patrol is poised to play a crucial role in defending the home front." The first sentence of this article is; "Ready to help in America's homeland defense is a little-known civilian auxiliary of the Air Force called Civil Air Patrol." You bet we are!! And, CAP is no longer that little-known.

In the March issue of World War II magazine there is an article covering four pages giving the history of the Civil Air Patrol. It is a great article telling all about duties we did in WWII. The sad part is the last sentence for it said; "Today, the role of the CAP during World War II is remembered by only a very few." What do we current members know of our proud history? Have any of us done any research into our history? Are we teaching our history in our squadrons?

In the February 2003 National Aeronautic Association News the headline is; "CAP Wins Aerospace Education Trophy." The article begins with: "The Civil Air Patrol, the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary best know for its search and rescue duties, has been selected to receive the National Aeronautic Association's prestigious Frank G. Brewer Aerospace Education Trophy for 2002." "This is a great honor for CAP."

In the Spring addition of Today's Officer", put out by the Military Officers Association of America, the headline on page twenty is "Waiting in the Wings," The sub-headline is "The Civil Air Patrol's mission expands to meet new challenges as it continues to serve the nation."

These four articles in these national publications show we are no longer a secret. Are we ready for prime time? I think we are. I have all faith and confidence in every member of every squadron in MN Wing to be professional as we carry out our duties.

I would like to leave you with the closing paragraph of Waiting in the Wings. "Today's CAP members, or USAF Auxiliary members, have a long and prestigious record of valuable service to the nation. As volunteers, they receive no retirement benefits after years of service and usually no publicly acknowledged thanks from the citizens who benefit from their dedication. As the horrific events of Sept. 11 awoke the nation to the true character of firefighters and police officers, whose brave actions and sacrifice are to often taken for granted, so too should we recognize the service and dedication of the Civil Air Patrol."

Around the Wing:



Col Houim presents Northstar Cadet Sqdn Commander, Major Craig Lommel a \$ 500.00 donation from Best Buy Inc to the North Star Squadron.

Owatonna Cadet Recieves the Mitchell Award



Cadet 2d Lieutenant Jesse Decker received the Civil Air Patrol "General William Mitchell" Award Tuesday evening. Presenting the Award was State Senator Dick Day of Owatonna. Cadet Decker is Cadet Commander, of the Owatonna Squadron. The award ceremony was held at Bethel Church in Owatonna.

New Internal AEO

2d Lt Hector Rodriguez has been appointed Minnesota Wing's Internal Aerospace Education Officer. He will be working with the Wing's AE Team and Unit AEO's to promote and support the Aerospace Education program for Cadets and Senior Members.

His email address is Hectorcapwhq@aol.com Please contact him with questions about the Internal Aerospace Education Program.

Metro Area CAP Units Get a New Commander

On April 22nd Major Tom Kettel passed command of Group 3 to Major Joe Volding of the North Hennepin Squadron.

The ceremony held at Grace Lutheran Church In Eden Prairie was attended by about 100 members and supporters.



Lt Col David Skaar, Minnesota Wing Vice Commander presents the Group 3 Colors to Major Volding.



During the program Col Hoium presented Major Kettel with a plaque to express his appreciation of Major Kettel's Service as commander of Minnesota's Largest Group Command.



Col Hoium had one more surprise as He and Major Kettel's wife (insert name) to help him promote Major Kettel to Lt Colonel.

Cadet Encampment Selects Staff at 2003 Encampment SSE – 5 April

The 2003 SSE has concluded, and I would like to thank all the cadets who participated as well as all the evaluators who gave their day. I wanted to extend a very special thank you to C/Capt Lori Sobolewski for her efforts in leading and coordinating the event.

The scores, sorted by highest to lowest total score, are reproduced below. More information on specific scoring is available on the encampment website. Competition was fierce with only 0.55 points separating the top two spots. Those requiring special recognition:

Our top three officer candidates:

C/Maj Dan Nordin, Valley Squadron (Top Score overall)
C/Capt Mark Pomerlau, North Hennepin Squadron
C/2d Lt Erica Hagen, Valley Squadron

Our top three NCO candidates:

C/CMSgt Amy Her, North Hennepin Squadron (Top NCO score)
C/CMSgt Amy Broekema, North Hennepin Squadron
C/SSgt Patrick Anderson, North Hennepin Squadron

Information on the 2003 Cadet Encampment can be found at the Minnesota Wing Cadet Programs Website www.mnwg.cap.gov/cp

- Major Todd Mandel

Squadrons come together for fun and Softball!

The sky was clear and the evening was perfect for a softball game. North Hennepin Composite Squadron and Fort Snelling Cadet Squadron joined together for a fun filled evening of softball and socializing.

The laughter and companionship spread quickly between the two squadrons. Friendships were forged and homers were hit. Although an "official" score was not kept, but rumor has it that it was a close game. Both Squadrons had a great time and hope to get together for another fun and social night.

Special thanks go out to 1st Lt Janelle Gates, 1st Lt Susan Vinge and 1st Lt Ruth Danielson for organizing the event.

- Capt Don Dalton

Wingtips

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CIVIL AIR PATROL: BACK TO THE FUTURE

by James Pilcher, The Cincinnati Enquirer

Created to help patrol the nation's coastline for enemy submarines, the Civil Air Patrol is getting back to its roots as a potential new defense in the war on terrorism.

The mostly volunteer auxiliary wing of the Air Force was put under the command of the Air Force's homeland security directorate in October 2002, and it is now growing into its role as it works more closely with the new Homeland Security Department.

"We've gone back to our future," said CAP Maj. Gen. Richard L. Bowling, the patrol's commander.

He was in Cincinnati this week for the group's annual National Congress on Aviation and Space Education, which concluded yesterday.

"It's really hard to put your arms around the whole dimension of this thing," he said. "The patrol's role (in homeland security) is still so broad and undefined, but we're ready and willing to do whatever the lead federal agency wants us to do."

Patrol officials met last week with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, briefing him on what the patrol can do.

And since the patrol was placed under the new department's supervision in October 2002, pilots have begun conducting training exercises specifically geared toward homeland security missions.

Col. Richard L. Anderson, director of the Air Force's auxiliary division, said potential missions could include shipping key medicines or inoculations and patrolling the airspace above sensitive areas such as nuclear power plants, sporting events or even ports and water facilities.

"We have yet to prove ourselves, but we will," said Michael Jay Murrell, commander of the patrol's Ohio wing, which includes seven planes, 1,700 members and 100 active pilots. "In fact, we're hoping to be able to patrol the Ohio State Buckeyes' next national championship."

There have been no such local missions yet, "but we certainly have been training," said Stephen Wolfe, a retired Marine who now owns a Burlington home inspection business and who was designated a home defense pilot shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. "We're ready to go, and we're just waiting for the federal and state governments to decide what exactly they want us to do."

Wolfe is part of the patrol's Kentucky Wing, which includes 712 members and 87 pilots. The state's branch operates 10 of the patrol's planes, two of which are based at Cincinnati's Lunken Airport.

Nationally, the patrol owns and operates 550 planes in all 50 states, flying about one official mission daily, with many more practice sessions every week.

The agency has grown to include more than 64,000 volunteer members, including more than 10,000 volunteer pilots. Four thousand members joined after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Following its inception in 1941 and original mission in World War II -- Civil Air Patrol pilots helped spot 157 subs, sinking two -- the agency has undergone many changes. Patrol planes have done everything from search and rescue missions to drug interdiction. Patrol planes flew over the Ohio River during the 1997 floods, for example, providing aerial views and sending pictures back to disaster relief planners.

The primary mission remains search and rescue, with most of its missions consisting of searching for missing planes. The patrol says it saved 88 lives last year.

But the agency also was the first to have planes flying over Ground Zero after the terror attacks, and patrolled the skies over both the 2000 Summer Olympics in Atlanta and the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

The patrol has upgraded its surveillance equipment to include slow-scan television technology and night-vision goggles. Its new motto is "The Eyes of the Home Skies," which was also used during WWII.

The planes are not armed, but they can warn of suspicious activity both in the air and on the ground, Bowling said.

Anderson said that it costs about \$90 per hour to keep a patrol plane airborne, compared with anywhere from \$350-\$4,100 an hour for a military jet, helicopter or transport plane.

Wingtips is published monthly and distributed to each household of Minnesota Wing members.
The views expressed either written or implied are not necessarily those of the U.S. Air Force or Civil Air Patrol.
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